

continuing resolution passed. I am going to support that. If the leadership of the House brings it to the floor, we ought to vote on it and get it done. But I do not think it should stop there.

I am concerned about the people who work in the Forest Service, who work in the Park Service, who work in the Department of the Interior and the people who work at Health and Human Services, all these other agencies who are not going to be taken care of. It is very obvious that, when there is a little heat put on, the majority is willing to make some adjustments. So if the American people want this Government to operate, they are going to have to make sure that the new Members who were elected last time hear from their constituents that they want this Government reopened and started.

This is ridiculous, and then there is no justification for it. This is the worst crisis we have had in terms, I think, of the confidence of the people of this country about our Government. What the Republican majority wants is for Bill Clinton to capitulate and accept their very radical prescription for the budget. The American people do not accept the levels of cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. I think it is preposterous to have a \$254 billion tax cut when we are trying to balance the budget. That tax cut makes it incumbent upon the majority then to make these very large cuts in Medicare and Medicaid and also in education and other very sensitive and important programs to the American people.

I just hope we can bring some common sense back. I hope that the senior Members in the Democratic Party, the senior Members in the Republican Caucus can bring some sense back to this institution and do our job. We should initiate a continuing resolution to get these people back to work.

I feel sorry for the Government workers and their families who at this Christmas time are being denied their work, their opportunity to earn a living, because of this impasse.

I also urge the President to stand his ground. He should not capitulate. He should not accept this radical agenda. I am very upset about this. I am very upset and feel very badly for the people and their families who are being forced out of work because of this inability to reach an agreement.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. VOLKMER. It becomes very obvious to me at least, maybe not others, that there are those, especially among the freshman group, after listening to one of the freshman speak earlier today, that they almost relish the Government shutting down. The Federal Government is the enemy. They want to take it down to nothing.

I can remember back when I had a conservative tell me that the Federal Government should defend our shores, deliver the mail, and get out of our

pocketbooks. In other words, that is all the Federal Government should do. That is what I am hearing here, especially among the radical ones, that they want to shut the Federal Government down. To them there is nothing wrong with it. That is what one of the freshmen said earlier today.

JUST THE TRUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, people are talking about how disappointed they are and how sad they are. Let me say what saddens me, that people can get on this floor with a straight face, with a straight face, mind you, and still spread the untruth that we are cutting Medicare. I hear that we are slashing Medicare. It is a radical agenda.

I had a member of my district call and say, please, will somebody tell me who is telling the truth up in Washington. The President keeps saying that he is shutting down the Government, and he is not going to pass the first balanced budget in a generation because you are radically cutting Medicare.

I do not want to call the President of the United States a liar, and I will not. I will let the Washington Post, the New Republic, and members of the President's own staff, former staff do this. This is the front cover of the New Republic. It says why the Democrats' demagoguery is even worse than you thought. The New Republic is one of the most liberal publications in America since 1914. It is flat out saying the President is not telling the truth.

The Washington Post writes an editorial. What saddens me, what deeply saddens me is every person that comes up and says that we are slashing Medicare is, A, either knowing that that is not true or, B, is ignorant of the facts. Ignorant of the facts that the Washington Post points out, when they say that the Democrats led by the President have chosen instead to present themselves as Medicare's great protectors, they have shamelessly used the issue, demagogued on it because they think that is where the votes are and the way to derail the Republicans.

The President was still doing it this week. A Republican proposal to increase Medicare premiums was the reason he alleged to veto and shut down the Government. But never mind the fact that the President himself would countenance the same increase. The Washington Post—this is not from NEWT GINGRICH. Wake up, America. Wake up. This is from the Washington Post, the New Republic: We are being called radical.

Do you know what is so radical about our plan, that on Medicare, we are doing the same exact thing that President Clinton and Hillary Clinton said

we needed to do 2 years ago. Hillary Clinton, shake your head, Hillary Clinton testified on Capitol Hill that we needed to slow the growth in Medicare to twice the rate of inflation. She suggested 6½ percent. The Republican plan increases it to 7 percent. Furthermore, spending on Medicare explodes to 65 percent over the next 7 years.

The press knows it. The press has stated as much. The markets have stated as much. Everybody knows the truth. Do not believe me, do not believe NEWT GINGRICH, do not believe the Democrats. Listen to what neutral observers are saying. They are trying to scare senior citizens because they are devoid of any plan to balance the budget in 7 years.

The New Republic has said it. The Washington Post has said it. The Washington Times has said it. The Wall Street Journal has said it. Editorial boards around America have said it. They said it this past week when they called Leon Panetta on the carpet on This Week with David Brinkley.

Do my colleagues know what Leon Panetta's final remark was? Well, it is just to give the rich tax cuts. Let me tell my colleagues, check it out. Eighty-nine percent of these tax cuts for the so-called rich, 89 percent as scored by CBO, goes to families earning under \$75,000. Check it out. Check out the truth.

Is \$75,000 or less for a family the way that Bill Clinton defines rich these days? If so, I think he needs to lead a Third World country instead of America, because there are a lot of people with three or four children making \$75,000 or less that have trouble getting by. If that is a tax cut for the rich, label me guilty. I am sick and tired of what is going on. I just want to hear the truth. Give me some truth.

REPUBLICAN PROPOSAL ON MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Dakota [Mr. POMEROY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, that was quite a display we just saw, for all the fire and volume, kind of a temper tantrum really at the rostrum. I think it is very unfortunate that we are not proceeding in more of a thoughtful way reflective of the weighty issues that we have responsibility to resolve.

The gentleman hollering, describing how nothing is impacted under the Republican-passed budget regarding Medicare, in point of fact that is simply not the case. The part B premium alone, Mr. Speaker, \$46.10 a month today, in the final year of the Republican plan that will be \$88.90, compared to \$46.10.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. POMEROY. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Would the gentleman also admit that under the